

Remarks

Claims 1-21 were examined. In the Office Action, Claim 1 is rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being unpatentable over Si et al (US Patent No.: 5,612,824, hereinafter Si"), Claims 2-11 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims, and Claims 12-21 are allowed.

The Examiner is thanked for the thoughtful review of the application and indication of allowable claims. To expedite the process of the current application, the Applicant chose to add the feature(s) recited in Claim 2 into Claim 1, and subsequently cancelled Claim 2. As a result of the amendments, Claim 1 is now believed to be allowable. Reconsideration of claim 1 and 3-1 is respectfully requested in view of the amendments.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is believed that the pending claims 1, and 3-21 shall be in condition for allowance over the cited references. Therefore, it is believed that the entire application is now in condition for allowance, early and favorable action is being respectfully solicited.

If there are any issues remaining which the Examiner believes could be resolved through either a Supplementary Response or an Examiner's Amendment, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at (408)777-8873.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Box: AF Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, Faxed to 703-872-9308

on January 10, 2005,


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Respectfully submitted


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